GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1493
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
SHG LINKAGE PROGRAMME
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the subsidy provided and quantum of foodgrains distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the last three years;

(b) whether PDS has failed to achieve its objectives;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(d) the details and objectives of the Self Help Groups (SHG) linkage programme launched in Andhra Pradesh with the assistance of World Bank under the PDS;

(e) whether there is any proposal to further fine tune the Programme and extend it to other parts of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for its speedy implementation?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a): The year-wise break-up of subsidy released on foodgrains during the three years is as under:-

	Subsidy Released (Rs. In crore)		
Year	FCI	State	Total
2004-05	23280	2466	25746
2005-06	19871	3200	23071
2006-07	20786	3042	23828

Offtake of foodgrains under TPDS during last three year has been under:-
(In lakh tons) Offtake of foodgrains (rice & wheat)

2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
293.55	311.05	313.69

(b) & (c): No, Sir.

(d), (e) & (f): As reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, 6.4 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) have taken up income generating activities for improving livelihood of their member families and for ensuring food security to their members. These SGHs provide credit to their members for purchasing essential commodities from Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and from the market. This initiative is being implemented by village organizations.The credit provided to the members is recovered in weekly instalments. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for extending this to other parts of the country.